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That Is Nirama's Word

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How he managed to get access to an all-channels broadcast is unclear, but shortly before lunchtime today, the crime lord Nirama broadcast an angry warning to a number of groups he feels are endangering Cularin. Given the upheaval in his organization, many individuals in the system have been left wondering how much of his statement is truth, and how much of it is posturing for public approval. The question we must ask about this rather unique four-eyed individual is what this kind of posturing would actually gain him.

The broadcast consisted of Nirama, seated in a chair in front of a blue screen. He spoke, said what he wanted to say, and then all channels resumed their standard programming. A large number of individuals and groups in the system recorded the message, and it is reproduced here in its entirety.

Citizens, I am Nirama. Many of you know me by reputation alone. I am what you might call a lord of crime. I have command of the largest smuggling guild in Cularin, and am at the center of the black markets for several systems. There are many of you who find my work distasteful, who believe that I am an individual who wallows in darkness and has anger and hatred in his heart. These things are not true. I certainly understand where the ideas came from, but they are inaccurate.

I come to you today - and I must apologize for the manner in which I come to you, since I am loathe to interrupt the workings of daily life in Cularin, but without some interruption, I fear that my message would go unheard - to speak to you about this system that we call "home." I have spent several decades in Cularin, first as an underling of Riboga the Hutt, and later as the individual I have become. I have a great fondness for Cularin. It is my home, in every sense of the word. That I live in the asteroid belt and make my living through the transport and sale of oft-illegal goods does not make me any less concerned about what is happening around me.

Many of you recognize that Cularin is in trouble. My people and I have watched the degradation of the situation in the system with no small amount of interest, and have engaged in small activities of our own to alleviate potential problems. However, our efforts alone will not be sufficient to stop the dark tide that has begun to rise throughout Cularin and threatens to wash away all that we love.

I am loathe to wax poetic about Cularin. It is not in my nature. I am not a creature of poetry; I am a creature of fact. I want nothing so much as to be completely honest with you about the situation, and where my people and I

stand.

It has always been my intention to make Cularin a vital part of the Republic. To that end, I assisted in expediting Riboga's departure from the system. I have provided order where the Hutt sowed chaos. I have worked to keep the pirate factions fighting amongst themselves, rather than attacking you. I have increased trade - both legitimate and otherwise - in the system. I have helped the galaxy to recognize that Cularin is a place of great value. All of these are good things.

There will always be those, however, who seek to exploit a system like Cularin. To those, I issue the following warning: If you wish to do harm to Cularin, you must first go through me.

To the Thaereian Navy: Admiral Tramsig, you and your bantha-fondling pseudo-soldiers should stop toying with the people of Cularin. You claim to be a "peace-keeping" force. Why, then, are you here? The people of Cularin have thus far been spared the horror of the Clone Wars. Is there a threat that you have elected not to share with us? If so, I urge you to reconsider. If not, then perhaps you should withdraw your troops. Immediately. Go and fight real battles, and leave our borders alone. All that you and your troops have done so far is interfere with trade - - although not with the Metatheran Cartel's trade; isn't that odd? - - and harass the good people of this system. How you managed to suppress the public outrage over your hidden base on Tilnes, I cannot guess. I suppose enough guns that are large enough will suppress just about anything. If you do not stop acting against the people of Cularin, you will suffer. That is Nirama's word.

To the Metatheran Cartel: I am uncertain of your loyalties. Loogg, I have never trusted your smile. When you smile and proclaim your loyalty to the Republic, I hear lies in your voice. But then, Loogg, I have yet to hear truth in your voice. You have walked the edge of a lightsaber blade for some time. I would be less concerned if I did not believe that a misstep would not kill you, but rather, would make two of you where before there was only one. Do not think you can fool all of the people of Cularin with your promises and your free beverages. You cannot. If you harm Cularin, you will know pain the likes of which you have never experienced. That is Nirama's word.

To my former employees: You know who you are, and if you remain in this system, having betrayed me, you are only exacerbating your initial foolishness. I do not care what you think you are or what kind of power you believe you have. You have betrayed me. You have killed innocents. If I find you, I will kill you myself. That is Nirama's word.

To Alina Impeveri: Born of politics, you simply cannot get enough of the lies and deceit, can you? I cannot blame your father - - the parent often sacrifices control of the child, in the interest of allowing them to grow. I have heard much of you, but you, at least, have been wise enough to steer clear of me. I encourage you to continue to do so. If you act against Cularin, you will bring my wrath down upon yourself. That is Nirama's word.

To Rufus Trammel: You are still here. I am not sure where, or why, but you have not left the system. If you have decided to throw in your lot with those who would harm this system, I will feed you to something with many very dull teeth that chews slowly. That is Nirama's word.

To Senator Wren and the Jedi of Almas: From what I have seen, you have the best interests of the system at heart. If you need assistance against those who seek to subvert our home, you need only call. We all stand a much better chance if we unite against these threats than if we stand alone. As the many heroes our system has produced have already seen, a single individual may be competent, but a group that understands one another and works in concert can become unstoppable.

This is my home. I do not like what I see being done to it, and I will do everything in my power to keep Cularin safe. That is Nirama's word.